ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for managing tool execution via roles on a
computer system while maintaining computer system security, wherein the
computer system comprises a plurality of roles, are disclosed. Such a method and
apparatus may include delegating tools to a user based on a role, wherein a tool
provides root access for performing a specific task in the computer system and the
role is an authorized role that enables the user to run the delegated tools, identifying
one of the plurality of roles to be disabled, wherein the identified role is the
authorized role, accessing the identified role, and, disabling the identified role so
that the user cannot run the delegated tool(s). Disabled roles may likewise be
enabled according to a disclosed method and apparatus. Embodiments of the
invention may comprise authorization objects that comprise attributes identifying
the roles and machine for which a user is authorized.